WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
5 - JUL 1938
A.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEDWELLTY.

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st Dec., 1937

BLACKWOOD :
J. E. ROBERTS, Sirhowy Valley Printing Works.

Bedwellty Urban District Council

1937—1938

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Vice-Chairman—Councillor Lewis Lewis

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,, Mrs. Winifred Robson
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,, Richard Lanagan
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,, E. J. Butler
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,, William John
,, William Norman Evans
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,, R. Lanagan (Vice-Chairman)
,, Mrs. R. Jones
,, Mrs. M. A. Booth
,, Mrs. W. Robson
,, T. Mantle
,, Lewis Lewis

Alderman E. Thomas, J.P.
,, J. J. Panes, J.P.
Councillor E. R. Edwards
,, William John
,, G. H. Hodges
,, David Davies

Sanitary Staff—

Medical Officer of Health (Part-Time) ... S. R. Macmillan, M.B.
Chief Sanitary Inspector ... Dan Powell, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Sanitary Inspector ... Arthur M. Coleman, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Shops and Disinfecting Officer Dan Thomas
Shops and Rat Destruction Officer George East
Public Ambulance Driver Elias Jones
Fever Ambulance Driver Fred Williams
Junior Clerk Ronald C. L. Williams, A.R.S.I.

Isolation Hospital Staff—

Medical Superintendent (Part-Time) S. R. Macmillan, M.B.
Matron A. M. Valder (State Registered Nurse)
Sister S. Edwards
Staff Nurses A. C. Stephens, B. Brace and L. Jones
Probationer Nurses E. Desmond, B. Morgan and G. Tillot
Caretakers Mr. and Mrs. F. Williams

Summary of Statistics for 1937

Area of the District in Acres	7,355
Population at Census (1921)	31,088
Population at Census (1931)	30,074
Estimated Population for Births and Deaths Rates ...	28,640
Number of Inhabited Houses	6,362
Number of Persons per House	4·67
Rateable Value	£94,717
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£326
Number of Births	532
Nett Birth-rate	18·57
Number of Illegitimate Births	19
Number of Deaths of Residents	315
Nett Death-rate	10·99
Number of Deaths under one year	34
Of these there were Illegitimate	1
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births	63·34
Number of Women dying from child-birth (Sepsis and other causes)	2
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis ...	20
,, ,, Influenza	16
,, ,, Bronchitis	14
,, ,, Pneumonia	15
,, ,, Measles	4
,, ,, Circulatory Diseases ...	108
,, ,, Cancer	19

Rainfall	1932—50·47 inches
Rainfall	1933—32·29 inches
Rainfall	1934—36·57 inches
Rainfall	1935—36·25 inches
Rainfall	1936—51·44 inches
Rainfall	1937—46·76 inches

Year	Births	Deaths	Year	Births	Deaths
1930 ...	726 ...	318	1934 ...	660 ...	379
1931 ...	700 ...	354	1935 ...	655 ...	353
1932 ...	686 ...	364	1936 ...	614 ...	349
1933 ...	625 ...	387	1937 ...	532 ...	315

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

"*Bodlondeb*,"
New Tredegar, Mon.
June, 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have very much pleasure in submitting my **ANNUAL REPORT for the Year 1937,** which is compiled in accordance with Circular 1650 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The population of the Urban District has been steadily falling since 1930, and this is accounted for by (1) the falling birth-rate and (2) the migration of people to other districts—where more congenial work can be found. Most of those leaving the area are the able-bodied young men and the young persons leaving school, with the result that it is becoming increasingly more difficult for employers of labour to get suitable persons at this age period.

Moreover, the inducements for working in the collieries—the chief source of employment in this Urban District—are not sufficiently attractive for the young people, and besides, parents are using their influence to induce their children not to work in the collieries, but seek employment in more remunerative and cleaner occupations.

The result of this will be that in a few years the collieries will be short of skilled labour to take the place of the older employees.

Unemployment is still general, especially in the Rhymney Valley portion, and it is very doubtful whether the collieries will ever absorb all the unemployed (especially those 50 years and over) and so far no new industries have sprung up. Encouragement should be given to employers to start new industries, either by government help or by a reduction in the rates and taxes which are abnormally high here and hard to increase.

Despite all these conditions prevailing, 1937 must be considered the best year since the slump began in 1930, and although the number of the men employed at the collieries is less than in former years, those working have had regular employment.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :—The number of births during 1937 was 532.

The births for the five years 1933-1937 were as follows :—

1933 ... 20·83 per thousand
1934 ... 22·00 „ „
1935 ... 21·80 „ „
1936 ... 20·50 per thousand
1937 ... 18·57 „ „

The number of legitimate births was 280 males and 233 females. The total number of illegitimate births was 7 males and 12 females.

(This is taken from the Registrar General's Return).

Births during 1937

Month	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Totals
January ...	28	18			
February ...	19	20	76	58	134
March ...	29	20			
April ...	16	18			
May ...	29	19	60	51	111
June ...	15	14			
July ...	23	26			
August ...	28	20	83	68	151
September ...	32	22			
October ...	23	23			
November ...	23	23	68	68	136
December ...	22	22			
Totals ...	287	245	287	245	532

1933	...	317 males	...	308 females	
1934	...	345 „	...	315	„
1935	...	345 „	...	310	„
1936	...	284 „	...	314	„
1937	..	287 „	...	245	„

The birth-rate for 1937 again shows a fall compared with that of previous years, being 18·57 per 1,000 of the population. This is the lowest ever recorded in this Urban District, but it is markedly above that of the County of Monmouth (which is 15·5 per 1,000) and England & Wales (14·9 per 1.000). The latter two, however, appear to be reaching a stationary level, while this area is still declining.

The decliue is no doubt due to a number of conditions :—

(1) The economic conditious of the people.

(2) Youug parents feel they cau care for the childreu better if the number in the family is limited.

(3) Propagauda in newspapers and circulars regarding birth control and the advantages of a small family.

(4) The present day mode of living which offers greater facilities for pleasure and pastimes.

Against this, however, it is noticeable that the poorer sections of the community are having the larger families, with the result that they cannot afford to look-after and feed them properly, and hence there will be an increasing number of under-fed and uudeveloped children, which, in the eud, will throw an added burden on the state.

The number of illegitimate births has also increased this year, compared to 1936, but is less than 1933.

The still-birth-rate still remains abnormally high (being 62 per 1,000 of the population) compared with the County of Monmouth 0·90, and it is nearly three times as high as England and Wales *viz.* 0·62 per 1,000 of the population. It is difficult to explain such a marked difference. Most of the confinements are attended by midwives who are fully trained and, therefore, it should not be due to lack of technique. Moreover, the incidence of those diseases which predispose to still-births, does not appear to be any more prevalent in this area than it is in other small districts with a lower still-birth-rate.

However, now that the midwives are full time and can devote more time to the ante-natal care of the parturient woman, many of the causes of fœtal deaths may be discovered beforehand with a consequent avoidance.

Compared with the County of Monmouth and England and Wales, the birth-rate is :

Bedwellty Area ...	18·57	per 1000 of the population
County of Monmouth	15·5	„ „ „
England and Wales	14·9	„ „ „

Comparison of number of still-births :

Bedwellty Area ...	1·62	per 1000 of the population
County of Monmouth	0·90	„ „ „
England and Wales	0·60	„ „ „

Deaths during 1937

The number of deaths during the year was 310, showing a death-rate of 10·99 per thousand of the estimated population.

During the years 1933-1936 the death-rate for each year was as follows :

1933 ... 12·9 per thousand	1936 ... 11·6 per thousand
1934 ... 12·6 „	1937 ... 10·99 „
1935 ... 11·8 „	

Monthly Deaths of Males and Females

Month	Males	Females	Totals
January ...	18	15	33
February ...	16	12	28
March ...	15	10	25
April ...	16	8	24
May ...	15	11	26
June ...	6	5	11
July ...	13	8	21
August ...	20	6	26
September ...	9	12	21
October ...	19	22	41
November ...	14	13	27
December ...	12	15	27
Totals ...	173	137	310

The death-rate for 1937 shows another marked fall, being only 10·99 per 1000 of the population. This is the lowest ever recorded in this Urban District and, moreover it has shown a consistent fall since 1933, *see table.* This rate compares more than favourably with the death-rate for the County of Monmouth, which is 12·6 per 1000 of the population and with that of England and Wales *viz.*, 12·4 per 1000 of the population. Moreover it is below the death-rate of 148 smaller towns, which is 11·9 per 1000 of the population.

Considering this district is one in which unemployment is prevalent, the figures speak for themselves and show that the general health of the area is highly satisfactory.

It will be noted that there is again a marked fall in the number of diseases of the Respiratory System being only 33, compared with 107 in 1929, while the number of circulatory diseases steadily increases being 28 in 1929 while 108 occurred during 1937, *see table.*

Tuberculosis seems to remaiu stationary with anuual variations, while there is a fall in the number of deaths from Cancer this year being the same as in 1929 *viz.*, 19. Between these years, however, there have been marked variations and it would appear that Cancer now has reached a stationary level with yearly variatious. It has now a death-rate approximately to that of Tuberculosis but with a very much higher age-incideuce, beiug more common after 40 years, while Tuberculosis is a disease of the second aud third decade, *see table.*

While so much is being done for the tuberculosis patient iu diagnosiug the disease aud subsequent treatment, little or nothing has been done for the patients with suspected cancer, and they are depeudaut on the general hospital for their investigation and treatment. I would suggest that some national scheme be instituted on similar lines to that for tuberculosis, where patients suspected of having cancer could atteud and be thoroughly investigated and treated if found to have the disease. Out of a total of 310 deaths it will be observed that 102, or roughly one-third of the persous were over 65 years *(see table)* while 46 of the 102 were over 75 years.

Year		Respiratory System	Circulatory System	Tubercu-losis	Cancer
1929	...	107	28	17	19
1930	...	54	39	27	15
1931	...	70	53	31	27
1932	...	79	64	20	27
1933	...	83	68	33	23
1934	...	55	82	34	25
1935	...	42	74	22	36
1936	...	53	110	26	25
1937	...	33	108	20	19

Monthly and Ward Distribution of Deaths, 1937

Month	New Tredegar	Aberbargoed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Markham	Argoed	Hollybush	Totals: Months	Totals: Quarters
January ...	12	4	7	0	8	1	0	1	33	
February ...	6	4	6	3	3	2	4	0	28	86
March ...	10	4	5	3	3	0	0	0	25	
April ...	5	4	4	2	6	2	1	0	24	
May ...	10	5	4	2	3	0	2	0	26	61
June ...	2	0	3	1	3	0	1	1	11	
July ...	9	4	3	2	1	1	1	0	21	
August ...	4	7	3	4	3	2	3	0	26	68
September ...	6	5	4	2	3	0	1	0	21	
October ...	8	9	4	2	12	4	1	1	41	
November ...	7	2	8	2	7	0	0	1	27	95
December ...	5	3	6	3	8	0	2	0	27	
Totals ...	86	51	57	26	60	12	16	4	310	310

Infantile Mortality

The deaths under one year were 34, giving an infantile mortality of 63·34 per 1000 births registered.

1932	the rate	was	72·1	per	thousand births
1933	,,	,,	80·0	,,	,,
1934	,,	,,	90·9	,,	,,
1935	,,	,,	59·5	,,	,,
1936	,,	,,	63·5	,,	,,
1937	,,	,,	63·34	,,	,,

The Infantile Mortality rate of 63·34 per 1000 births shows a slight fall on that of 1936, but is still markedly higher than that of 1935, although still lower than in the years preceding 1935, and is now down to about half of that of twenty years ago. This year it is slightly lower than that of the County of Monmouth which is 63·9 for 1000 births but it is still higher than that of England and Wales *viz.*, 58 per 1000 live births.

There is still much to be done for the welfare of the infants. Mothers, however, are now taking an interest in the child's welfare, and are attending the Clinics more regularly—where they are supplied with milk, etc., should the condition of their infants warrant it. Moreover, any children with abnormalities requiring advanced medical or surgical skill are referred to specialist for further advice and treatment. The use of dried milks has certainly diminished the number of infants contracting Diarrhœa and other digestive disturbances, and this has helped to reduce the Infantile Mortality rate.

Of the 34 deaths recorded 19 (or 55·5%) were due to prematurity and congenital conditions. A certain percentage of these deaths is unavoidable, but for the premature children special provision should be made for their care in hospital, where they can be placed in more hygiene and healthy surroundings than their own homes, and where they can be nursed in equitable temperature, and have the expert care of nurses specially trained in this branch of nursing.

Two deaths were recorded as Diarrhœa and four others died from digestive troubles. Only two deaths occurred from Pneumonia and two from Bronchitis. No deaths occurred from Zymotic Diseases. The deaths were equally spread over the various wards.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year during 1937

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Totals
Diarrhoea ...				1	1				2
Measles ...									
Prematurity ...	6		2						8
Whooping Cough									
Pneumonia ...						1		1	2
Bronchitis ...					1	1			2
Convulsions ...	3				2	1	3		9
Other Causes ...	4	1	1	1			1		8
Totals ...	13	1	3	2	4	3	4	1	31

Deaths of Infants under one year during 1937

Population ...	8725	5215	3630	3057	6330	4433				
Month	New Tredegar	Aberbargoed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush	Months	Quarters
January ...	1	1		1	2				5	
February ...	1	1							2	10
March ...		1		2					3	
April ...			1				1		2	
May ..	2		2						4	10
June ...			1		1	1		1	4	
July ...				1					1	
August ..		1	1						2	5
September ...	1					1			2	
October ...		1			1				2	
November ...					1	1			2	6
December ...				1	1				2	
Totals ...	5	5	5	5	6	3	1	1	31	31

Comparison of Infantile Mortality

Bedwellty U.D.C.	...	63·34	per 1000	births
County of Monmouth	...	63·9	,,	,,
England and Wales	...	58	,,	,,

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases :—

		Rhymney Valley	Sirhowy Valley	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	3	0	3
Whooping Cough	...	0	0	0
Measles	...	2	2	4
		5	2	7

Transferable Deaths, 1937

		Males	Females	Total
Royal Infirmary, Cardiff	...	16	7	23
Royal Gwent, Newport	...	6	3	9
Ty Bryn, Tredegar	...	10	10	20
Cottage Hospital. Tredegar	...	2	0	2
Mental Hospital, Abergavenny		1	3	4
Sully Hospital, Llandough	...	1	1	2
Sanatorium, Cardiff	...	0	1	1
Cefn Mably Hospital	...	1	1	2
Colliery	...	2	0	2
Private Residences	...	2	4	6
Railway Station	...	1	0	1
Cottage Hospital, Oakdale	...	2	0	2
		44	30	74

NETT DEATHS, 1937

CAUSES OF DEATH	At all ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	Over 75
Measles ...	4		2	2											
Whooping Cough ...	3		1				1	1							
Diphtheria ...	16								1	1	3	2	4	4	2
Influenza ...	2							1	1	1					
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	18							1	2	7	3	3	2		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2								2						
Other Forms of Tuberculosis...	19								1	2	2	3	6	4	1
Cancer ...	3												1	1	1
Diabetes ...	18									2		2	5	7	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	69								1	7	9	10	9	15	18
Heart Disease ...	1											1			
Aneurysm ...	7				1							1	1	2	2
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	14	2										1	3	6	2
Bronchitis ...	15	2	4		2				1			2	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	4											1	1	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4											1	2	1	
Peptic Ulcer ...	5	2	3												
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	6						1	3	1			1			
Appendicitis ...															
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	9	4								1	1		1	3	
Other Digestive Diseases ...	8		2							2	2			2	
Nephritis ...	2									1	1				
Puerperal Sepsis ...															
Other Puerperal Diseases ...	19	19												3	10
Cong. Deb., Prem. ...	13									1		1			
Senility ...	3				1	1		2	1	4	2	2	1	3	
Suicide ...	18			1		1				1					
Violence ...	2					1		1	1	5	2	1	3	3	5
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2							1	1						
G.P.I. Tabes ...	24	2				1		1	1						
Other Defined Causes ...															
Totals ..	310	31	12	3	4	3	2	9	13	32	27	32	40	56	46

Notification of Infectious Diseases in Registration Wards and in Quarters during 1937

Notifiable Diseases	Total	Total cases notified in each district									Quarters			
		Phillipstown	New Tredegar	Aberbargoed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush	1	2	3	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1		1											1
Pneumonia	35		20	1		3	3	3	2	3	15	8	7	5
Scarlet Fever	45		10	12	4	7	9		3		10	7	8	20
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ..	10	1	2			1	4		1	1	3	3	1	3
Pulmonary T.B.	40		10	8	9	5	5	2	1		9	14	4	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	9		5			3	1				1	1	3	4
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5		2			1	2				3			2
Diphtheria	78	4	6	4	6	19	33	1	4	1	28	15	22	13
Erysipelas	14		3	4			5	2			7	1	2	4
Totals ...	237	5	59	29	19	39	62	8	11	5	76	49	47	65

SCARLET FEVER:—

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Number of cases notified ...	45	37	64	239	457	215
Number of deaths ...	0	0	0	3	3	2

Scarlet Fever

Year	No. of cases Quarters 1	2	3	4	Total	No. of deaths Quarters 1	2	3	4	Total	Case Rate per 100,000	Death-rate per 100,000	Fatality percentage
1935	26	14	6	18	64						213·3		
1936	12	11	5	9	37						123·3		
1937	11	5	9	20	45						157·5		

Cases of Scarlet Fever keep cropping up in the various Wards ; in all 45 cases were notified during 1937 with no deaths. It is a very mild type with very few constitutional symptoms. All the children are treated at home, except those where home conditions are unfavourable to proper isolation and treatment. On notification of the disease, the houses are inspected, enquiries made as to the number of rooms and occupants and instructions given to the parents. On the recovering of the patient notice is sent to the health department, and the houses are disinfected.

Owing to the very mild type of Scarlet Fever I see no reason why these children should be admitted to the Isolation Hospital, even if there is accommodation for them.

DIPHTHERIA :—

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Number of cases notified ...	78	89	136	365	133	125
Number of deaths ...	3	8	14	32	18	12

Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)

Year	No. of cases Quarters 1	2	3	4	Total	No. of deaths Quarters 1	2	3	4	Total	Case Rate per 100,000	Death-rate per 100,000	Fatality (case mortality) percentage
1935	91	50	24	47	212	6	4	1	3	14	707	42	6·6
1936	34	12	11	32	89	4	2	1	1	8	296 7	26'7	·9
1937	26	15	17	20	78	2		1		3	238	11·5	3 7

There was again a fall in the number of cases notified during the year. Seventy-eight compared with 89 in 1936, and 212 in 1935. Most cases were of a milder type than that of preceding years although a few belonged to the gravis type. Many of the cases admitted to hospital as suffering from Diphtheria were found not to have true clinical Diphtheria.

I would again emphasize the value of having the children immunised against this disease, as from the experience gained in one ward of the Urban District, it offers the child the only protection against Diphtheria, and should they contract it—it is always of a milder type.

Enteric Fever:—There were no cases of Enteric Fever notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia:—Three cases of Puerperal Fever and two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

There were two deaths during the year giving a rate of 3·76 per 1000 live births. The two deaths were notified as due to Puerperal Sepsis. No deaths occurring from other causes. This is an increase over 1936 when only one death was recorded. This result, however, is under the rate for the County, which is 4·52 per 1000 live births, but it is slightly higher than that for England and Wales *viz.*, 3·23 per 1000 live births. The number of deaths, however, is too small to draw any definite conclusions but it shows that this Urban District as part of South Wales is not such a dreadful area as described in certain quarters.

During the year the County Medical Officer sent a circular to general practitioners stating that they could obtain Streptocide, free of charge, for the treatment of their patients suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia—this is kept at the Health Department of the District Council, and will be given out on application.

I feel sure that this was a very progressive step and that if the claims made for this drug are realised one can expect a marked improvement in maternal mortality and morbidity.

Hospital accommodation is still urgently needed for the isolation of women suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia. At the present time it is impossible to get these cases into the general hospitals at Cardiff and Newport, and the only alternative is Ty Bryn, Tredegar. Many women refuse to go to this Hospital as they think there is a certain stigma attached to the old name of Poor Law Infirmary.

I would suggest that you provide a cubicle block at your Isolation Hospital where such cases as these could be admitted. At present no such accommodation is available, but is urgently required.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum :—Nine cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified in the area. Five of the cases were from New Tredegar, three from Cefn Fforest, and one from Blackwood.

It is strange but may be a coincidence that all the cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurring in the New Tredegar Ward were attended by the same midwife. Moreover, only one case occurred in 1936 in the Rhymney Valley, while this year five were notified in New Tredegar alone. There does not appear to be any increase in the number of cases of the disease which produces ophthalmia in the new-born.

Influenza :—There were 16 deaths recorded during the year from Influenza.

There were two mild epidemics of Influenza during the year ; one in the Spring and the other in the fall. Of the 16 deaths recorded five were in people of 55 years and over.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER :—Two cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever were notified in the area during the year. One patient was treated at the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, and the other at Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Many of the cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever are sent to Cardiff Royal Infirmary with a diagnosis of Meningitis, where they are diagnosed as Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and later are transferred to the local Isolation Hospital or returned to your Isolation Hospital. Since these people are usually seriously ill, the long journey to and from the General Hospitals lessens their chance of recovery. I would suggest that Circulars be sent to the General Practitioners in the area, stating that all cases of suspected Meningitis be notified to the Health Department before being transferred to the General Hospitals.

If such were done the diagnosis could be confirmed and much valuable time and inconvenience to the patient would be saved.

Besides the cases from your area many cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever have been admitted from neighbouring authorities. The type of the disease seems to be changing. The earlier cases conformed to the typical text-book type and responded well to the serum and antitoxin, but of late those admitted (especially from the Abertillery and Blaina districts) are of a different type fulminating in character, and fail to respond to the Sera at present available. It would appear that the organism has taken on an increased virulence similar to that of the Diphtheria Bacillis of a few years ago, or that the cases are infected with a type at present not isolated.

The earlier cases belonged to group 1 (type I and III) and responded well to that group serum, but the later cases presented a different clinical picture and the cerebro-spinal fluid was also different in character, while it was impossible to type it.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones (County Pathologist) for his help in investigating these cases, and the typing of the Miningococcus.

MEASLES ;—Measles is not a notifiable diesease in this area, but there were a number of cases distributed throughout the district. There were four deaths recorded. This is a more serious

disease than S. Fever at the present time, and although of late it has not been of a very virulent type a fair percentage of children develop Broncho-Pneumonia. The mortality was higher than that of Diphtheria and I strongly recommend that you make complicated Measles notifiable. If home conditions are unsuitable provision be made for their admission to the Isolation Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS :—There were 14 cases notified during the year. These cases were treated at home, or else admitted to the Ty-Bryn Hospital or Isolation Wards of General Hospital.

The advent of Prontosil has greatly facilitated the treatment of this disease and appears to be a specific for it, without any form of local treatment. These cases, however, ought to be treated in the Isolation Hospital.

PNEUMONIA :—Thirty-five cases were notified during the year and the number of deaths recorded was 15. From the number of deaths it is obvious that all cases of Primary and Influenzal Pneumonias are not notified. The number of notifications from the various Wards shows that in certain of these the disease is not notified.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1937

Infectious Diseases	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever	1	4	6		3	2		3	6	7	5	8	45
Diphtheria	18	5	3	9	5	1	5	4	8	10	4	6	78
Pneumonia	3	7	4	6	1	2	2	4	1	2	2	1	35
Erysipelas	2	1	4	1			2			1	1	2	14
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	1										3
Pyrexia												2	2
Pulmonary T,B. ...	3	5		3	6	5	3	2	3	2	4	4	40
Non-Pulmonary T,B. ...	1	1	2			3				2	1		10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1			1			1	2	1		3		9
Totals ...	30	24	20	20	15	13	13	15	19	24	20	23	234

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1937 (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	45	1	2	5	6	7	11	8	4	1				6	
Diphtheria	78		1	7	4	13	26	15	6	5	1			78	3
Pneumonia	35	4		2	2	5	5	1	3	1	4	6	2		15
Erysipelas	14							1	1		3	7	2		
Puerperal Fever	3								1	2					
Pyrexia	2								2						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	9	9													
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	1							1						2	2
Small Pox															
Enteric Fever															
Para-Typhoid															
Malaria															
Encephal. Lethargica ...															
Acute Poliomylitis ...															
Age Group Totals	187	14	3	14	12	25	42	26	17	9	8	13	4	86	20

TUBERCULOSIS

Nineteen-hundred and thirty-seven has shown a fall in the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, 40 as compared with 47 in 1935, while there is a more marked decrease in the number of non-pulmonary cases *viz*, 10 in 1937 compared with 21 in 1936; while there is a corresponding fall in the number of deaths, *namely*, 18 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1937 compared with 21 in 1936, and two of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1937 with six in 1936.

Of these deaths seven were of cases notified in 1937; three of them dying in the Sanatorium while four died at home. A comparison of the last five years shows that there is a yearly variation in the number of cases notified and in the number of deaths, but that on the whole the death-rate appears to be constant and that this year it is slightly under it.

The notifications show the same facts as in previous years, *namely*, that it is a disease of adolescence and that females are more prone to become infected than males.

The hospitalisation and sanatorium treatment of patients suffering from Tuberculosis is certainly not what it should be. When Sully was opened the waiting period between the discovery of the disease and the admission to hospital was greatly curtailed but now things have reverted to the old order, and months elapse between the diagnosis of the disease and admission to hospital.

In my opinion this period is a vital one for the patient as during this time many of them lose ground rapidly with an extension of the disease, and what was a comparatively early case becomes an advanced one, thereby necessitating a longer stay in hospital. The obvious conclusion to draw from this is that more hospital accommodation is urgently required.

To my mind the greatest necessity of all is a hospital for the very advanced and dying cases with no hope of recovery. When such cases occur in their own homes they are left there to disseminate the disease to all and sundry by coughing, etc. It is impossible to isolate these cases at home as they require constant attention and this brings other members of the family in direct contact with them and hence makes them more liable to be

infected. Moreover, neighbours either through kindness or otherwise are constantly found in the bedrooms of those patients and so are liable to become infected or carry infection with them.

Another point of importance in these advanced cases is this: when they are admitted to Sanatoria and do not progress, satisfactorily they are discharged home—cases of open tuberculosis often with a tubercular enteritis as well as their lung trouble—to die, but before doing so dissemate the tubercle bacilli to all who come in contact with them.

I think that the obvious thing would be to have a hospital for the most advauced cases without hope of recovering, where they could be removed either from their own homes or from the sanatoria.

The nursing of the tuberculosis patient at home is another matter which requires consideration. At present in certain wards of this Urban District the district nurse goes around attending to them. As she is debarred from attending other infectious diseases, I feel she ought to be debarred from attending those suffering from tuberculosis, as she is just as prone to carry this infection as in the other infectious diseases, although it is more difficult to prove. As most of the cases she attends are debilitated by illness, the risk of infection by the tubercle bacillus is greater.

Disinfection of the home is another point for consideration, but, in my opinion, it is a minor factor compared to those previously emulated. I doubt whether the present method of gaseous disinfection is of any avail and that the tubercle bacilli are killed by it.

To wash down the walls, floor, furniture, etc., with strong disinfectants would cause untold hardships on certain people who haven't the means to redecorate or refurnish their houses after such a process.

Despite these observations I still think disinfection should be carried out as it has a marked psychological effect on the other occupants of the house.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES and MORTALITY

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease during the year 1937 :—

Age Periods in Years	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Under 1												
1-5		1	1	1		1						
5-15	1	3	4	2	3	5		1	1			
15-25	6	11	17	3		3	2	2	4	1	1	2
25-35	2	2	4		1	1	2	3	5			
35-45	4	2	6				2	1	3			
45-55	2	2	4				1	2	3			
55-65	4		4				1	1	2			
65 and over												
Totals ...	19	21	40	6	4	10	8	10	18	1	1	2

OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE

Male Cases.	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
Miner	8	1	9
Unemployed	6	1	7
Mechanic	0	1	1
Labourer	1	0	1
Under School Age ...	0	1	1
School Boy	2	1	3
Shop Assistant	0	1	1
Unknown Occupation ...	2	0	2
Totals ...	19	6	25

Female Cases.			
Housewife	8	0	8
Domestic	5	2	7
Shop Assistant	3	1	4
School Girl	5	2	7
Totals ...	21	4	25

Sources of Ascertainment.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Tuberculosis Institute, Pontllanfraith	7	4
General Practitioners ...	22	4
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	1	2
Cefn Mably Hospital ...	5	0
Sully Hospital ...	2	0
Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport ...	1	0
North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh	1	0
Cardiff Royal Infirmary ...	1	0
Totals ...	40	10

The following table shows the various Institutions for the treatment of Tuberculosis at which patients from your area were treated during 1937, together with the number admitted or discharged from each Institution. (Taken from Forms I and II Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.)

T.B. Hospital or Sanatorium	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
	Admitted		Discharged		Admitted		Discharged	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cefn Mably ...	3	4	2	3				
Glan Ely ...	2				1	1		
North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh ...		1			1			
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth ...							1	
St. Bride's Hospital, Haverfordwest ...							1	
Sully Hospital ...	1	1	1	2				
Ty Bryn, Tredegar ...								
Adelina Patti Hospital ...				1				
Hawkmoor Hospital, Devon ...				1				
Totals ...	6	6	3	7	2	1	2	0
	12		10		3		2	

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No tuberculosis employees are engaged in the Milk Trade and consequently no action was necessary under the above Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925 Section 62

No order for the compulsory removal of patients suffering from Tuberculosis to Hospital was made under the above Act.

Monthly Notification of Tuberculosis

Month	Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
January ...	4	3	0	1	0
February ...	5	3	1	1	0
March ...	3	2	0	1	0
April ...	3	0	3	0	0
May ...	6	1	5	0	0
June ...	8	1	3	1	3
July ...	3	1	2	0	0
August ...	2	2	0	0	0
September ...	3	2	1	0	0
October ...	4	0	2	1	1
November ...	5	2	2	1	0
December ...	4	2	2	0	0
Totals	50	19	21	6	4

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to notified tuberculosis deaths :

Non-notified deaths	...	...	0
Notified deaths ...	...	...	20

Notifications and Deaths from Pulmonary and other Forms of Tuberculosis, 1930-1937

Year	Cases, Deaths with attack and death-rate per 1000	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Other forms of Tuberculosis	
1930	Notifications, etc.	32	0·88	11	0·33
	Deaths ...	22	0·66	3	0·09
1931	Notifications, etc	53	1·69	15	0·45
	Deaths ..	23	0·67	8	0·23
1932	Notifications, etc.	56	1·87	29	0·97
	Deaths ...	13	0·43	7	0·23
1933	Notifications, etc.	55	1 83	17	0·57
	Deaths ...	28	0·93	5	0·17
1934	Notifications, etc.	47	1·57	21	0·7
	Deaths ...	27	0·9	7	0·23
1935	Notifications, etc.	42	1·4	10	0·31
	Deaths ...	20	0·66	2	0·06
1936	Notifications, etc.	47	1·57	21	0·7
	Deaths ...	20	0·66	6	0·20
1937	Notifications, etc.	40	1·38	10	0·35
	Deaths ...	18	0·62	2	0·07

Report of Dr. Glyn Jones (Tuberculosis Physician) upon Tuberculosis Work in Bedwellty during the Year ended December 31st, 1937

Number of new cases examined at the Clinic ...	230
Number of new school cases examined at the Clinic ...	61
Number diagnosed as :	
(1) Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33
(2) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	7
Number of patients admitted to Hospital	35
Number of patients admitted to Sanatorium	4
Total number of attendance	1544

Hospital Provision.

Isolation Hospital

a. Fever : There is accommodation for 40 patients at the Council's Isolation Hospital at Coedymoeth Common, Markham. The Hospital consists of four wards. The provision of separate accommodation for observation cases and patients whose disease, on admission, is not definitely determined, in the form of a cubicle ward, would be a decided advantage.

Considerable difficulty is experienced to barrier different diseases in the same ward, and if this cubicle ward was erected it would help considerably in administration and nursing.

The list of the Staff at the Hospital will be found at the commencement of the Report.

During the year, 198 patients were admitted to your Hospital, but of this number 110 cases were from outside local authorities.

Isolation Hospital, 1937

	0-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15-25 yrs	25-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45 and over	Totals
Remaining in Hospital on 31st Dec., 1936—							
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	10	21	0	1	0	0	32
Other Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	10	21	0	1	0	0	32
Admitted to Hospital during the year 1937—							
Scarlet Fever ...	5	5	0	0	0	0	10
Diphtheria ...	35	118	15	9	0	1	178
Other Diseases ...	2	1	2	4	1	0	10
Totals ...	42	124	17	13	1	1	198
Total under treatment, 1937	52	145	17	14	1	1	230

Of the above there were discharged :—	0-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15-25 yrs	25-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45 and over	To-tals
(a) Recovered :							
Scarlet Fever ...	4	4	0	0	0	0	8
Diphtheria ...	40	129	13	10	0	1	193
Other Diseases ...	2	1	1	2	1	0	7
Totals ...	46	134	14	12	1	1	208
(b) Died :							
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	3	3	1	0	0	0	7
Other Diseases ...	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Totals ...	3	3	2	2	0	0	10
Remaining in Hospital 1st Jan., 1938—							
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Diphtheria ...	2	7	1	0	0	0	10
Other Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	3	8	1	0	0	0	12

The total number of patients admitted each year to the Hospital during the last five years, were as follows :—

1933	...	664 patients	...	18 deaths	
1934	...	442	,,	...	38 ,,
1935	...	250	,,	...	20 ,,
1936	...	168	,,	...	10 ,,
1937	...	198	,,	...	10 ,,

b. General : The Powell Duffryn Co's. Workmen's Hospital, Aberbargoed, is confined practically to workmen and their dependants. Facilities are provided for surgical operations and X-Ray. The present accommodation is 40 beds - three of which are kept for female cases—and four children's cots.

c. *Maternity:* No provision has been made locally for the reception of maternity cases. Poor Law cases are admitted to the Public Assistance Institution at Tredegar.

d. *Tuberculosis:* There is no Hospital for the treatment or isolation of Tuberculosis in this area. Provision for dealing with this disease is provided by the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association. The County Council make a contribution to the funds of the Association.

e. *Children's Hospital:* There is no Children's Hospital in the area.

f. *Small Pox:* The Monmouthshire County Council provide accommodation for Small Pox.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers; illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district; other than that provided by the County Council at Cottage Homes, Lilian Rd., Blackwood.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

A complete list of the Officers can be found in the front of this Report. The Exchequer contributes one-half of the salary in the case of the Medical Officer of Health and two Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year, four pupils in the department were successful in passing the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board: (1) Mr. John T. Templeman, who obtained a position at Church U.D.C.; (2) Mr. Ronald Williams (Clerk in Public Health Dept.), appointed Sanitary Inspector to North Witchford Rural Council; (3) Mr. Norman Rhodes & Mr. Graham Lawrence: the last two could not obain their certificate until they are 21 years of age.

Midwives

There are 13 Midwives practising in the Bedwellty area. They are under the control of the County Council. The Local Authority does not employ or subsidise any of these:

Blackwood ...	4	New Tredegar ...	2
Markham ...	2	Fleur-de-Lis ...	1
Cefn Fforest ...	1	Aberbargoed ...	1
Pengam ...	1		

Nursing in the Home

Much good work is carried out by the qualified Nurses employed by the Nursing Associations in the area. All Wards in the district have a nurse.

The Council contributes a sum of money each year to the following Nursing Associations established in the area :—

1. New Tredegar and District Nursing Association.
2. Aberbargoed Nursing Association.
3. Pengam, Fleur-de-Lis and Maesycwmmer Nursing Association.
4. Blackwood and District Nursing Association.
5. Markham and District Nursing Association.

Medical Comforts Depots

By means of a grant from the Commissioner for Special Areas, applied for by the Health Service Committee of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Council of Social Service, it has been possible in Special Areas of South Wales to re-equip many existing Medical Comforts Depots. The Staff of these Depots is provided entirely by Local Divisions and Detachments of the Order of St. John (Priory for Wales). In addition to the equipment of Depots, an issue of sickness comforts, comprising a selection of smaller articles in day to day use, has been made to every District Nurse.

There are two such Depots in the Bedwellty area, where medical comforts and sick room appliances can be obtained for the necessitous sick:

1. Blackwood—Ambulance Hall, Gordon Road.
2. New Tredegar—Council Offices, Duffryn Terrace.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

The following are the details of the Centres now opened under the scheme approved by the County Council (under the direction of Dr. D. Rocyn Jones, County M.O.H.)

	District Served	Premises Utilised	Opening Date	Day and Hours of Consultation
1 Aberbargoed	Aberbargoed	Domestic Arts Centre Aberbargoed School	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2 Blackwood	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Alternate Thursdays, 10-30 a.m. to 12-30, 2 to 4 p.m.
3 New Tredegar	New Tredegar and Cwmsyfiog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	1917 March 29th	Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 to 4 p.m.
4 Pengam	Pengam, Fleur-de-Lis and Maesycwmmer	Vine House, High Street Pengam	1917 March 12th	Monday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

a. Tuberculosis Clinics—Pengam Post Office Buildings, 1st and 3rd Monday each month, at 10-30 a.m.

b. School Clinics—Pengam, Vine House: Teeth and Vision. Controlled by the County Council.

c. Venereal Disease—(Nil). Patients may attend Clinic at Royal Gwent Hospital and Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

d. Ante-Natal Clinic—1. New Tredegar: Wesleyan Schoolroom 2. Pengam: Vine House. These are under the control of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

a. For Infectious Disease: The Council's "Morris" Motor Ambulance provide transport for infectious cases to the Council's Isolation Hospital, and conveying patients when discharged to their respective homes in the area. The Ambulance was also used for the conveyance of patients to and from Pontypool, Mynyddislwyn, Abertillery and Blaina respectively.

Number of trips run by the Ambulance ... 252

b. For Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases : A fully equipped "Bedford" Ambulance is maintained by the Council, under the control of the Health Department, for the purpose of dealing with accidents or other urgent disability cases. The use of the Ambulance is free to residents in the Bedwellty area. Telephone numbers : 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Bargoed 101 ; after 5 p.m.—Bargoed 32.

c. Colliery Accidents : The Colliery Companies in the area, the Powell Duffryn Coal Co., and the Tredegar Iron & Coal Co., provide Ambulances for the men injured at the collieries.

Public Ambulance *(b)*

Number of cases conveyed during the year ...	469
Number of trips run	469
Total mileage	14260
Average miles per trip	30·4
Amount of petrol used (in gallons) ...	1240
Average number of miles per gallon ...	11·5

Average removal of 9 patients per week.

Ambulance Cases conveyed to and from Each Ward

WARD	Maternity Cases	Sudden Illness	Street Accidents	Minor Accidents	X-Ray Cases	Discharges	Other Causes	Totals
New Tredegar ...	2	24	2	23	9	31	16	107
Aberbargoed ...	4	21	7	17	1	30	42	122
Pengam ...	3	20	2	10	2	9	26	72
Cefn Fforest ...	1	5	1	10	1	18	30	66
Blackwood ...	1	8	2	10	4	10	15	50
Argoed ...	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	9
Markham ...	2	5	1	5	5	9	3	30
Hollybush ...		2		5	1	2	2	12
Other Areas (Rhymney)				1				1
Totals ...	14	86	16	83	24	110	136	499

Number of Cases Removed

To and from	Cardiff Royal Infirmary ...	222
„ „	Royal Gwent Hospital ...	68
„ „	Aberbargoed P.D. Hospital ...	38
„ „	Cottage Hospital Tredegar ...	29
„ „	St. Mellons Convalescent ...	3
„ „	Ty Bryn, Tredegar ...	64
„ „	Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff ...	2
„ „	County Clinic, Newport ...	1
„ „	Cottage Hospital, Oakdale ...	13
„ „	Vine House Clinic, Pengam ...	1
„ „	Private Residences	15
„ „	Ebbw Vale General Hospital ...	1
„ „	Newport Nursing Home	1
„ „	Bristol Royal Infirmary	1
„ „	Allt-yr-yn, Newport	1
„ „	Newport G.W.R.	1
„ „	Barry Hospital	1
„ „	Tredegar Maternity Home ...	2
„ „	Cardiff Maternity Home	1
„ „	Monmouth General Hospital ...	1
„ „	Bath Rheumatism Hospital ...	2
	Total	469

Ambulance Boxes

The Council have provided Ambulance Boxes in every Ward throughout the area. The Council also give a grant in respect of each box every subsequent year. These boxes are maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association who are doing very useful work in the district.

Laboratory Facilities

All examinations of pathological and bacteriological specimens are carried out by the County Pathologist (Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones) at the County Laboratory, Newport—free of charge.

Public Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room

As stated in my previous report, the Council have satisfactory arrangements with the Hospital Committee of the Powell Duffryn Workmen's Hospital at Aberbargoed; but cases have arisen again during the year when it was inconvenient to the Hospital to allow a post-mortem to be performed. The erection of a Public Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room would be an advantage to the area.

The number of post-mortems conducted during the year, 11.

Schools

The Schools in the area have been visited from time to time by the Inspector. These premises are under the control of the County Council.

The Water Supply in the Schools are satisfactory.

The sanitary conditions are quite adequate, and are kept in a good condition.

Adoptive Acts in force in the Area

1. Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890:
(Part) Feb. 27th, 1894.

2. Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890:
Part 5, Jan. 24th, 1898

3. Public Health Amendment Act, 1890: Part 4, April 1st, 1898

4. Private Street Works Act, 1892: Sept. 26th, 1904

5. Public Heath Acts (Amendment Act), 1907:
Part 4 (part) Oct. 7th, 1929

BYE-LAWS:—Bye Laws *re* cleansing of footways, slaughter-houses—made by the Local Government Board, 1893, Bye-Laws *re* removal of house refuse, cleansing earth closets, etc.—made by Local Government Board, 1900. Bye-Laws *re* tents, sheds and vans and other similar structures used for human habitation, common lodging houses, offensive trades, nuisances:—
March 24th, 1914

The Council obtained powers under the Bedwellty Urban District Council Act, 1936, to deal with the prohibition of tents, vans and sheds, etc., also the prohibiting of sorting of refuse tips and ash-bins.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area

WATER SUPPLY:—The Rhymney Valley portion of the area is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board. The Sirhowy Valley is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Tredegar Urban District Council. The water is collected at the top end of the valley above Nantybwch, from a spring called "Ffynon-Sion-Sieffre," and is stored in a reservoir below the spring It is splendid drinking water, being filtered, and softened to reduce the hardness.

The quantity of water purchased during 1937 was 104,141,000 which is an average of 285,300 gallons per day. The average consumption per head on the estimated population of 10,700 was 26·7 gallons.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING:—The collection of house refuse is under the direct control of the Surveyor. There was no material difference in the method and cost of cleansing and scavenging during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:—The Council is a constituent member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board and the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board, and all subsidiary sewers are connected with one of the trunk sewers, which have sea outfalls.

With the exception of the village of Manmoel, no sewage is now discharged into brooks and rivers, and a scheme for dealing with Manmoel was submitted to the District Commissioner for Special Areas. The scheme was not approved because it was considered too costly, and an amended scheme is now being prepared.

RAINFALL:—I am obliged to the Surveyor (Mr. Dan H. Price) for the following particulars:

The rainfall during 1937 was 46·76 inches as compared with 51·44 inches in 1936. The number of days on which ·04 inches or more of rain fell was 155, as compared with 176 in 1936. The wettest month was January, with 7·78 inches; and the dryest month was August, with 0·81 inch.

Smoke Abatement:—As stated in previous Reports, the atmosphere is polluted from the fumes and smoke from the By-Product Plant at Bargoed. This affects the Aberbargoed Ward. A nuisance is also caused by the coal-dust from the coal-crusher in the Rhymney Valley.

Swimming Pools and Baths:—There are no swimming pools or baths in the Bedwellty area, although my Council has tried to obtain a grant for the erection of a central swimming bath. This service to the public is long overdue because it has always been maintained that swimming is the oldest and still the finest form of physical exercise, and every endeavour should be made by the appropriate authorities to provide a swimming pool in this area.

Pithead Baths:—The Powell Duffryn Company at their Colliery—Britannia Pit—have large and up-to-date pithead baths. A new pithead bath is now being erected in Markham Village for the miners employed at the Markham Colliery. A large number of the miners employed in the Sirhowy Valley are engaged at the Oakdale Colliery—in the Mynyddislwyn area. This Colliery is also equipped with a modern pithead bath. These pithead baths are a boon to the housewives.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

During the year visits were made to food premises, river banks and refuse dumps, and baits were laid on all the property of which the Council are the "occupiers." This work is done by the Staff of the Public Health Department, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Inspection and Supervision of Foodstuffs

Milk Supply:—All dairies, milkshops and cowsheds in the area were inspected during the year by your Inspectors.

Ninety-two samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 23 taken for the detection of tubercle baccilli, and 29 for sediment test. All samples of milk were examined at the County Laboratory by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones (County Pathologist), and where any samples were found to be below the standard the Clerk to the Council sent letters to the milk dealers concerned, warning them and giving instructions with a view to

improving the conditions of storage and distribution. In the course of the year four retailers were summoned to appear before the Public Health Committee, to show cause why the Local Authority should not refuse to register them or remove them from the register, because of the quality of the milk. One person was removed from the register during the year.

Seventy-four samples of milk were also taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928. Three of these samples were not up to standard.

Total number of milk samples taken in the area during the year:

For bacteriological examination		...	92
For detection of Tuberculosis		...	23
For Sediment Test	...	...	29
Under Food and Drugs Act	...	...	74
			218

The following persons were licensed during the year to retail graded milk within the area under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order. 1936:

Mr. H. L. Lloyd, Hazeldene, Pengam Road, Pengam—
Tuberculin tested milk

Mr. E. D. Davies. Caron Dairies, Ystrad Mynach—
Tuberculin tested milk: supplementary licence

Mr. Emrys Williams, Berllanlwyd Farm, Pengam—
Tuberculin tested milk: supplementary licence

Messrs. New Tredegar, Treharris, Troedyrhiw Co-operative Society, Arcade Buildings, Ystrad Mynach—
Pasteurised milk: supplementary licence

Messrs. Tredegar Industrial and Provident Society, Commercial Street, Tredegar—
Pasteurised milk: dealer's licence

The following are licensed by the County Council to sell accredited milk in the area:

Mr. W. E. Pugh, Pencoed Fawr Farm, Blackwood

Mr. A. J. Jeffreys, Maesruddud Home Farm, Blackwood

Meat and Food Inspection

The requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in respect to notification of slaughter and the presence of diseased meat were well observed during the year. No case of illicit killing was recorded. The amount of foodstuffs condemned each year provides evidence of efficient work under this head, both in the private slaughter-houses and elsewhere.

All meat and other food material condemned by the Inspector as unfit, was voluntarily surrendered and removed as soon as possible to the Council's Refuse Tip at Aberbargoed, where it was buried. In no case was a Magistrates Order necessary to secure this result.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

Mr. A. W. Prosser (the County Inspector of Weights and Measures) has kindly supplied me with the particulars of samples taken in the Bedwellty area under the above Act :

Milk	...	74	Pepper	...	1
Butter	...	2	Meat Paste	...	1
Lard	...	2	Fish Paste	...	1
Self-Raising Flour	...	2	Gravy Browning	...	1
Jelly	...	2	Raw Sugar	...	1
Spice	...	2	Malt Vinegar	...	1
Margarine	...	1	Coffee	...	1
Rice	...	1	Tea	...	1
Tapioca	...	1	Bun Flour	...	1
Sponge Mixture	...	1	Sultanas	...	1
Peas	...	1	Honey	...	1
Scotch Oatmeal	...	1	Egg Substitute	...	1
Sild	...	1	Ground Ginger	...	1
Tomato Ketchup	...	1	Cream of Tartar	...	1
Aspirin Tablets	...	1			

Total .. 107

Total number of samples genuine	...	104
Total number of samples not up to standard	...	3 (all milk)

Legal proceedings were instituted against the two vendors responsible, convictions being recorded with fines of £2 in each case. One vendor, who had two charges against him, being dismissed on one count.

Housing

1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

1 (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	773
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	969
2 (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	687
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	703
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	381

2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	467

3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(*a*) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
2 Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(*a*) By owners	Nil
(*b*) By Local Authority on default of owners ...	Nil

(*b*) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

1 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 86

2 Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 86

(*b*) By Local Authority on default of owners ... Nil

(*c*) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 12

2 Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... Nil

(*d*) Proceedings under section 12 of Housing Act, 1936:

1 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 6

2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding

(*a*) i Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 23

ii Number of families dwelling therein ... 35

iii Number of persons dwelling therein ... 158

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 5

(*c*) i Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

ii Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

Magisterial Proceedings

Upon the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Clerk made an application to the Court for an Order against two persons to attend to repairs at certain properties. The Magistrates made the necessary Order in each case.

Police Court Proceedings were instituted against the Manager and House Manager of the Palace Cinema, Blackwood, for allowing the means of ingress and egress to become obstructed. The Magistrates cautioned both persons and made them pay 40/- costs each.

Housing Conditions

Four Closing Orders were made in respect of part of a building in the Fleur-de-Lis Ward under the Housing Act, 1936.

Seven new houses were built by private enterprise and in each case the houses were sold for occupation by the owner. No houses were built for letting to the working classes. The seven houses built during the year were erected in the Blackwood Ward.

It is pleasing that, at the time of making this report, the Council have commenced the erection of 118 houses for the working classes.

The Council have under consideration a large number of houses for demolition at the following places :

Cwmsyfiog	...	36	Pengam	...	17
Aberbargoed	...	8	Blackwood	...	17
Fleur-de-Lis	...	10			

Approximate number of persons which may be displaced 320

There has been no Staff changes of any importance, and the varied work of the Health Department has continued satisfactorily. I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council ; the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. D. Rocyn Jones), and his Staff ; the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Dan Powell), and his Assistant (Mr. A. M. Coleman) ; the Matron (Miss A. M. Valder), and her Staff at the Isolation Hospital ; and other officials for their admirable work throughout the year, towards the common cause of the health of our people, and the betterment of this area.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

S. R. MACMILLAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Hillside,
Aberbargoed, Mon.
June, 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have much pleasure in submitting my **ANNUAL REPORT**, on the work done in the Department, **for the Year ending December 31st, 1937.**

Notices served

Intimation Notices	...	...	518
Statutory Notices	...	...	86

Housing Act—House-to-House Inspection

Ward	No. of Houses inspected	No. of Houses in which defects existed
Phillipstown	51	28
New Tredegar	185	135
Aberbargoed	192	114
Pengam	51	25
Blackwood	52	35
Cefn Fforest	20	7
Argoed	11	3
Markham	97	24
Hollybush	28	10
	687	381

A very large number of houses were inspected for nuisances and dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

Two persons were summoned for non-compliance with Statutory Notices. An Order was made in each csse.

Housing Act, 1936

During 1937 action has been taken under sections 11, 12 and 66 of the Housing Act, 1936:

Number of dwellings dealt with under section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 (closure of part of buildings) 6

Number of dwellings dealt with under section 11 of Housing Act, 1936 (demolition of houses) ... 19

Number of notices served under section 66 of Housing Act, 1936 (abatement of overcrowding) ... 5

These premises were situated at: Argoed—2; Blackwood—12; Pengam—10; New Tredegar—2; and Aberbargoed—2.

Overcrowding

Five notices were served during the year to abate overcrowding nuisances.

Council Houses

The inspection of council houses has developed consistently during the year, primarily with the object of ensuring that prospective tenants are not undesirable, and that they will be allotted a house which, at the commencement of their tenancy, is free from vermin. In addition, all empty houses are inspected for sanitary defects, etc. Investigation of alleged cases of verminous infestation and overcrowding, is carried out immediately the facts are reported to the department. Briefly, the control exercised by the department has been concerned with the following matters :—

1. Report on the home conditions of prospective tenants.
2. The inspection of all vacant Council houses before re-letting and reporting any defects, etc., to the Surveyor who is responsible for repairs, etc.
3. The inspection of all houses where transfers are contemplated
4. The investigation of alleged verminous conditions, overcrowding, trading on premises, etc.
5. The supervision of the disinfestation of all verminous houses.

Number of houses inspected for repairs ...	105
Prospective tenants visited, and reports submitted to Accountant	82
Empty houses inspected	63
Empty houses disinfected	18
Occupied houses disinfected	2

Eradication of Bed-Bugs

The number of houses found to be infested was as follows :

(*a*) Council houses—18 (*b*) Other houses—54

Any Council houses found to be in a verminous condition were disinfected by the department. The method employed for the eradication of bugs consists of stripping (if the walls are papered), the removal of skirting and picture rails in bad cases, followed by the application of heat over all parts likely to harbour bugs, by means of a painter's blow-lamp. Finally each affected room is sprayed with Lawvercide, and in some cases immediately followed by fumigation.

I again wish to call your attention to the fact that disinfestation of Council houses has become a serious item in the expenditure on Public Health Services, due to materials, workmen's wages, loss of rent, etc.

Rent and Mortgage Interest—Restrictions—Acts, 1920-1933

No application was received during the year, for a certificate under the above Act.

Other Nuisances

Pig-keeping nuisances abated	3
Chicken-keeping nuisances abated	2

Rag and Flock Acts, 1912-1928

Places in the district using Rag Flock—Blackwood Ward	1
Inspections made	5
Notices served	Nil

There are five persons employed on these premises, mostly engaged in repairing upholstery for motor buses, etc.

The object of this Act is to ensure that all rags used in the manufacture of flock for the purpose of making any article of upholstery, cushions or bedding, shall be washed clean. The standard of cleanliness is prescribed by the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified	237
Certificates sent to schools	123
Certificates of disinfection sent to schools	123
Houses in which infectious diseases have occurred ...	215
Patients removed to your Isolation Hospital ...	86
Number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases ...	135

Isolation Hospital

The Isolation Hospital with 40 beds has been able to cope with all the local demands made upon its accommodation, also accommodated patients from outside adjoining Authorities.

The following cases were admitted from outside areas:—

	Diphtheria	Cerebro-Spinal Mening.	Scarlet Fever	Dysentary	Total
Ebbw Vale ...	34	4	0	1	39
Mynyddislwyn ...	24	0	0	0	24
Pontypool ...	45	0	0	0	45
Bedwas and Machen ...	0	0	2	0	2
	103	4	2	1	110

Steam Disinfector

The Steam Disinfector—a Washington Lynus—situated at the Hospital, was in constant use throughout the year, disinfecting bedding, etc.

Common Lodging-Houses

Number of Common Lodging-Houses ... 2

Both premises are situated in the Blackwood Ward, and are kept in a satisfactory manner. There is more lodging-house accommodation than is actually required.

Tents, Sheds and Vans

Regular visits were made to tents, vans and similar structures in the area. It is pleasing to report that this type of structure is on the decrease in the area.

Factories and Workshops

Number of Workshops (including bakeries) on register ...	69
Number of inspections made: bakehouses	49
workshops	52
Number registered during the year	Nil
Number of notices served	13
Number of notices complied with	13
Number of notices received from H. M. Inspector of Factories	5

Sanitary Supervision of Cinemas, etc. Ministry of Health Circular 1921. No. 120 Public Health Act, 1936

The six cinemas in the area were inspected at irregular periods during the year. The sanitary arrangements were satisfactory, but it was found necessary, during the year, to institute Police Court proceedings against the manager and house manager of a Blackwood Cinema for allowing the means of ingress and egress to become obstructed.

The proceedings were taken under section 36 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, which is now incorporated in the Public Health Act, 1936. The house manager and manager were cautioned and had to pay 40/- costs each. The Council were complimented for taking action.

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Orders made thereunder and known as the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923, Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and the Order made thereunder known as the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

Number of cowsheds on register	50
Number of retail purveyors on register	129
Nnmber of wholesale purveyors on register	21
Inspection of cowsheds (card index system)	104
Inspection of milk shops (card index system) ...	77
Notices served (lime-washing and manure heaps) ...	10
Notices complied with	10

Milk Samples

During the year, the County Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. Jenkin Evans) and myself took 92 samples of milk for bacteriological examination, and 23 were taken especially for the detection of tnbercle bacilli. I also took 29 for sediment test.

The Guinea Pigs inoculated, with the above 23 samples, failed to show any evidence of tuberculosis upon post mortem examination. The samples were examined by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones (County Pathologist), at the County Laboratory.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

Baits were laid during the year on all the property of which the Council are 'Occupiers,' especially the ashtip at Aberbargoed. Three notices were served on occupiers of premises to disinfect their premises.

RAT WEEK :—During Rat Week large posters were displayed on hoardings and public buildings throughout the Bedwellty area. Small posters were also displayed on 'buses. Free biscuit baits were given to those who applied for same.

CARCASES INSPECTED and CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Approx. number killed ...	120	540	140	3902	970
Number inspected	100	510	120	3200	920
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
Part of carcase condemned ...	15	66	10	506	70
Percentage affected	12%	12%	7%	12%	7%
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	0	3	0	0	0
Part of carcase condemned ...	1	3	0	0	8
Percentage affected	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%

All the stock referred to in the above table was consumed locally.

Foreign and Chilled Meat

Estimated proportion of imported foreign and chilled meat consumed in the area—25%.

Classification of Meat, etc., condemned

The following are particulars of the meat and foods that were surrendered and destroyed during the year ending 31st December, 1937 :—

Meat (Home-Killed) :

Beef ... 1968 lbs
Beef—Frozen 238 „

Offal ... 468 lbs (include liver, lungs and heads)

Miscellaneous :

Corned Beef ...	132 lbs	Bacon ...	81¼ lbs
Veal and Ham ...	16 „	Bread ...	32 „
Jellied Veal ...	18 „	Cake ...	17 „
Fish ...	24 „	Rabbits ...	3 doz.
Fruit ...	16 „		

Tinned Goods :

Milk ...	128 tins	Tomatoes ...	93
Cream ...	46 „	Beans ...	6
Fish ...	14 „	Fruit ...	224
Tongue ...	4 „	Salmon ...	27

Bottles, Pots and Packets :

Jam ...	12 pots	Pickles ...	33 bottles
Lemon Cheese ...	5 „	Sauce ...	16 „
Paste ..	8 „	Coffee ...	14 „
Sponge Mixtures	6 pkts	Gravy Browning	5 ,
Jellies ...	4 „	Syrup ...	4 „

Total weight ... 1-ton 16-cwt. 0-qrs. 15¾-lbs

Slaughterhouses

Number of registered slaughterhouses ...	1
Number of licensed slaughterhouses ...	2
Number of visits	367

The registered slaughterhouse is situated at Argoed, and the two licensed premises are at Blackwood.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-1935

Total number of notices received of intending slaughter :

1. For regular slaughtering	...	10
2. From cottagers and farmers	...	110

The majority of animals slaughtered by cottagers and farmers were pigs.

Slaughtering takes place at least three days a week in winter-time, and oftener in summer-time, in the three slaughterhouses.

Bedwellty Urban District Council Act, 1925

Section 30 (1) 2.—Premises used or proposed to be used for the preparation or manufacture of potted or preserved meat, fish or other food, intended for the purpose of sale :—

Number of premises on register	...	14
Number of inspections made ...	...	204
Notices served *re* lime-washing	...	1

Number of premises in each ward is as follows :—

New Tredegar	... 2	Aberbargoed	... 1
Fleur-de-Lis	... 1	Blackwood	... 9
Hollybush	... 1		

Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, 1928
Shops Act, 1934

Number of Shops in Bedwellty area :—

	Sirhowy Valley		Rhymney Valley
Shops proper ...	134	...	167
Dwelling-house Shops	39	...	85
Sheds ...	13	...	6
Market (Stalls) ...	20	...	0
	206		258

There is a marked decrease in the number of shops proper in the Rhymney Valley: in 1936 there were 174 shops proper as compared with 167 this year. There is a slight decrease in the number of Dwelling-house Shops in both valleys.

	Sirhowy Valley	Rhymney Valley
Assistants employed :—		
Males ...	206 ...	164
Females ...	228 ...	46
	434	210

Of the number—644 Assistants—150 employed in the Sirhowy Valley, and 79 in the Rhymney Valley are "young persons" within the meaning of the Shops Act, 1934 (persons under 18 years of age).

There is a decrease in the number of assistants employed in the Rhymney Valley, 210 as compared with 241 in 1936. There is an increase of 10 in the Sirhowy Valley, 434 as compared with 424 in 1936.

Seven notices were served on owners or occupiers of shops, for contravention of provisions relating to sanitary or other arrangements, as follows:—

Number of notices in respect of sanitary conveniences ...	3
,, ,, ,, heating arrangements ...	4
Number of exemption certificates granted	Nil

It was not found necessary to take proceedings under the Shops Act, during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAN POWELL,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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